

These Things We Do, That Others May Live

John Isaac Edwards

Pararescuemen are guided by this set of beliefs: “It is my duty as a Pararescueman to save life and to aid the injured. I will be prepared at all times to perform my assigned duties quickly and efficiently, placing these duties before personal desires and comforts. These things we (I) do, that others may live.” ***These things we do, that others may live*** is a good motto for us as Christians. We are rescue men! We sing, “Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying, Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave; Weep o’er the erring one, Lift up the fallen, Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save.” Peter penned, “The Lord...is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9). I’m calling to our attention some things we do, that others may live:

1) ***Prepare Our Hearts To Seek The Law Of The Lord, To Do It, And To Teach.*** One thing that made Ezra such a great scribe and servant of God is he “...had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments” (Ezra 7:10). Notice the order: He prepared, he did, and he taught. Sometimes we try to teach

before doing, and without any preparation. This will not work! Luke reported of Jesus that He “...began both to do and teach” (Lk. 1:1). Paul asked the Romans, “Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself?...” (Rom. 2:21). May the purpose of Ezra be ours as well!

2) ***Preach The Word.*** Jesus commissioned the apostles, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mk. 16:15-16). Paul charged Timothy, “Preach the word...” (2 Tim. 4:2). The word of God is “...the word of life...” (Phil. 2:16). Peter said, “...And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you” (1 Pet. 1:25). A hid gospel is of no value! (2 Cor. 4:3). May we be like first-century Christians who, “...went every where preaching the word” (Acts 8:4), that others may live!

3) ***Go After That Which Is Lost.*** The mission of Jesus is summed up in sixteen (16) words: “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Lk. 19:10). Such ought to be our life’s

work. The parable of the lost sheep asks, “What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?” (Lk. 15:4). We need that same going after lost spirit today, that others may be found and brought home!

4) ***Pray.*** Our prayers should include petitions for the lost. A great example is when Paul declared, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved” (Rom. 10:1). Pray “...that God would open unto us a door of utterance...” (Col. 4:3) and that “...the door of faith...” (Acts 14:27) may be opened unto them which are lost! After all, “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Rom. 10:14).

5) ***Restore Such An One.*** Paul informed the churches of Galatia, “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted” (Gal. 6:1).

“Restore such an one” is used of one who by correction may be brought back into the right way. Restoring fault-overtaken men is an urgent task that we must be prepared to perform at all times!

6) Take Heed Unto Self, And Unto The Doctrine. Often, we want to take heed to everybody but ourselves. Our first responsibility is to self! Timothy was taught, “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (1 Tim. 4:16). During a safety demonstration in the midst of inflight passenger

announcements, we are told, “...secure your mask on first, and then assist the other person.” Sometimes we try to assist the other person without first taking heed to ourselves! The Lord taught, “And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?...first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye” (Mt. 7:3-5). Self-heeding is so important!

7) Convert The Sinner. Conversion is not just for the alien sinner. There are

Christians who need to be converted! James 5:19-20 teaches, “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (Jas. 5:19-20). Is it possible that we are not winning more souls for Christ because some of us have yet to be fully converted to the Lord?

Jesus said, “...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (Jn. 10:10). Will others live because of the things we do?

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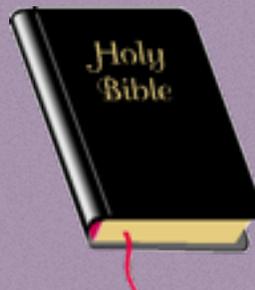
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